

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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-----100157Z 097676 /73

R 091530Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: MUNICH SPD NOMINATES ITS 1978 CANDIDATES FOR CITY
COUNCIL AND LORD MAYOR

REF: MUNICH 1105

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. IN SURPRISING DISPLAY OF APPARENT HARMONY, SPECIAL CONVENTION OF MUNICH SPD MAY 7 NOMINATED EVERY ONE OF 80 CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BY ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (VORSTAND). ALTHOUGH LIST PURPORTS TO BE "BALANCED," ITS CENTER OF GRAVITY IS CLEARLY LEFT OF CENTER. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DELEGATES SELECTED MUNICH SPD CHAIRMAN MAX VON HECKEL AS PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR. END SUMMARY.

2. CITY COUNCIL NOMINEES. DELEGATES FOR SPECIAL NOMINATING
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CONVENTION OF MUNICH SPD MAY 7 ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE THE 80-CANDIDATE LIST WHICH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MUNICH SPD PRESENTED TO THE CONVENTION. THIS LIST, WHICH HAD BEEN HAMMERED OUT DURING THE SEVERAL DAYS PRECEDING THE CONVENTION, REPRESENTED COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY'S CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES (KREISVERBAENDE). ALTHOUGH THIS LIST PURPORTED TO BE BALANCED, LEFT-OF-CENTER ELEMENTS

GOT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (32 OF 36) OF "SAFE- PLACES. THE FOUR RIGHT-OF-CENTER PERSONALITIES WHO RECEIVED SAFE PLACES ARE RESPECTED AND POPULAR FIGURES WHO HAVE SHOWN NO RPT NO INCLINATION TO QUARREL OPENLY WITH THE LEFT WING. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXTREMIST LEFT RECEIVED PLACE 19.

3. CLEAR SHIFT TO LEFT. SPD'S CITY COUNCIL LIST CLEARLY REPRESENTS CONSOLIDATION OF MUNICH SPD'S CONSIDERABLE SHIFT TO LEFT SINCE 1972. OF THE 20 LEADING VOTE GETTERS AMONG MUNICH SPD'S 80 CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL IN 1972, ONLY FIVE ARE EVEN ON THE 1978 LIST. FIVE OF THE 20 HAVE DEFECTED FROM SPD, ONE HAS DIED, AND NINE WERE NOT REPEAT NOT GIVEN PLACES ON 1978 LIST. CONGEN KNOWS OF ONLY ONE LEFTIST, SIEGMAR GEISELBERGER, AMONG THE FIVE DEFECTORS AND NINE PERSONS WHO DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE LIST.

4. LORD MAYOR CANDIDATE. THE CONVENTION DELEGATES OVERWHELMINGLY (29 FOR, 15 AGAINST, 12 ABSTENTIONS) NOMINATED MUNICH SPD CHAIRMAN VON HECKEL AS THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR. VON HECKEL WAS AWARDED POSITION NO. ONE ON THE CITY COUNCIL LIST BY AN EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF THE DELEGATES (245).

5. PRESENT MAYOR FAILS TO SHOW UP. CURRENT MUNICH LORD MAYOR KRONAWITTER, WHO BELONGS TO RIGHT WING OF SPD, DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE A SINGLE APPEARANCE AT THE CONVENTION. FLOOR LEADER OF CITY COUNCIL WHO IS PROMINENT RIGHT-WINGER ATTENDED CONVENTION BUT DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN DEBATE.

6. COMMENT. IN CONTRAST TO CSU, WHOSE CITY COUNCIL LIST IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIMED AT ATTRACTING UNCOMMITTED VOTERS, SPD DESIGNED ITS LIST TO REFLECT POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF MAJORITY OF ITS PRESENT ACTIVE MEMBERS. IN PRIVATE COMMENTS TO CONGEN, BAVARIAN SPD LEADERS EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT NOMINATING CONVENTION HAD PASSED WITHOUT THE TYPE OF LEFT-RIGHT DISPUTE WHICH HAS HARMED PARTY IN RECENT PAST.

7. ONE OF THE FEW ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT CONVENTION'S CALM WAS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY LEFT TO MOVE ONE OF ITS FAVORITES FROM PLACE 36 TO 34 ON LIST. FACT THAT LEFTIST ELEMENTS CONSIDERED THIS EFFORT WORTHWHILE SUGGESTS THAT THEY DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE SPD WILL WIN MORE THAN 35 OF 80 CITY COUNCIL SEATS IN 1978.
BETTS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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